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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097934
ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05
SS-15 SP-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE: JRHOOPER
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DREUTHER
INR/RNA: PJGRIFFIN
----------049754 172138Z /75
O R 172122Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097934

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PEPR, PINS, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET BUGGING OF IRAQI PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE

1. WE DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY BEIRUT MAGAZINE AL-HAWADITH RE SOVIET BUGGING DEVICES DISCOVERED IN IRAQI PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HIGH POINTS OF ARTICLE GISTED BY DAMASCUS MENA AND TRANSLATED BY FBIS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. BEIRUT 17 APRIL -- ACCORDING TO LEBANESE MAGAZINE AL-HAWADITH, IRAQI AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD HAS BEEN SPYING ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND ASKED EMBASSY TO MOVE OUT OF PREMISES ADJACENT TO PALACE.

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3. THE MAGAZINE SAYS TODAY THAT DESPITE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SOVIET UNION, IRAQI OFFICIALS DISCOVERED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY PLANTED LISTENING DEVICES IN WALLS TO SPY ON PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THIS DISCOVERY, MAGAZINE ADDS, EMBARRASSED SOVIETS.

4. AL-HAWADITH ALSO SAYS THAT IRAQI AUTHO,ITIES, AS

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RESULT, CUT OFF SOVIET EMBASSY'S WATER AND ELECTRICITY

SUPPLY AND INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THEY MUST VACATE PREMISES WITHIN 6 MONTHS. IT ADDS THAT ALTHOUGH DEADLINE HAS NEARLY EXPIRED, EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE STILL NOT RENTED ANOTHER BUILDING.

5. THE EMBASSY'S WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN CUT OFF AND IRAQI SERVICES HAVE BEEN WITHHELD FROM EMBASSY. UNQUOTE.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN PROVIDE ABOUT ACCURACY OF AL-HAWADITH'S ALLEGATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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